Dear Jim, re 1/22/65 Transcript 3/23/75

Tgis hasty note will serve as a memo to self on what I finally did to begin with on the 1/22/64 transcript when there was silence from Playboy, with whose people I met a week ago, before I got this, and made a prosposal.

Lesararticulated fear os theft and/or misuse before I did to him. He has come to learn that these are not paranoidal fears. So I immediately agreed to immediate public use. Although it also coula make a separate and important book, there is neother time nor funding for it. (Wouldn't take an uninterrupted week to write.)

I had immediately thought of the several active committees within whose jurisdictions it falls. With silence from Playboy I had decided to make a trip to DC Monday afternoon, with copies for these committees, and had so told Jim, Then I thought a little more - thinking dispassionately was not easy in the current cituations - and decided so seek advice and counsel from an old friend in the Washington press corps, Steve Barber, who is told bureau chief for both the Sunday and Daily London Telegraph.

Steve is a tough-minded skeptical authentic conservative, not a rightw-inger, a breed he holds in contempt. He has been a true friend on several occasions in the past, is a real pro and his advice and judgement would be soild, I figured. He also knows me well enough to know that when I tell him I have something I do. So, I phoned and asked him if he could come up over the weekend. Friday. He picked yesterday morning, the first moment he had with his not having the for-Sunday copy to file. All I told him is that I had finally obtained another transcript and it held valuable info.

He had his son drive and he reread parts of WW IV as they came here.

I had made a copy for him Friday when I made the other copies. He read it while I did other things. His judgement of its value is the same as mine. He saw means of attempting refutation, I addressed them briefly, and then asked if he could sell a long Sunday piece and what lese he'd recommend, my purposes being prompt and responsible use as widespread as possible.

He volunteered to give up an exclusive, saying those t ings mean nothing to him, and that a little competition might help get further attention.

We left it this way: when he decides the time is right (and I disucced the problem of theft) he'll use a teaser in his daily if they'll go also for a Sunday piece. He'll speak and offer to others he trusts. He specifically mentioned Chi Sun-Times' Ross, with whom he was metting last night anyway, and the Balt. Sun. I told him they are doing a Sunday piece on me and they are to come this week for pix.I am not to actually take copies to the committees (Church's,Edwards' and Abzug's) until after the Easter recess. (His first reaction was that I have an obligation to give this to Congress. I told him I already had copies for the three committtes named and then he thought and recommended delay for conditions of realism, what can be done now.)

(I have not yet had time to read it carefully. I skimmed it once in haste only then went back and marked a few places with paperclips prior to phoning McKinley. When the girl whose father does the xeroxing made the copies she didn't remove the clips, so they grabbed Steve's attention. We discussed a few other things about the content.)

The one person I wrote is Tom Susman. The one to whom I gave an idea of the content by phone is McKinley. Hoch got a copy by mail, as he should have. Here he was impirtant, keeping up a correspondence asking for the tape after I made the initial deamdns for the transcript. I told Syeve about Paul, briefly, and discussed it later with Lesar. Jim was away when both Steve and Paul phoned him, doing research on the Ray case. Jim had enough of an idea of the content from a carbon of my letter to Susman.

I told him not to return Hoch's call until after he had had a chance to hear anything Syeve had to say and ask any questions he might want to and then to tell Paul what I've done and that I'm leaving the use entirely up to Steve, with enough to give Paul confidence in this way of doing it (unless he is egp-centered). I told him to invite Paul here for going to the various committees with us whwn that time comes, so he'll be in and equal and available for his own testimony if they want to take any.

Jim filed his letter, which had to be taken as first step in litigation, for both of us on all the still-withheld transcripts. I was for this as the fact of it shows. Mine was the first request, so I hope Paul takes this as fair treatment. I'm without doubt that others will so regard it.

Prior to calling Steve I was feeling my way around. I made the first start with the local CBS affiliate, a nothing station that has recently added young people to its news staff. They may now be the entire news staff. A 23-year-old woman was to have come Friday to read the transcript as see if she could make a pitch to CBS but RCA's servicing of their UPI machines is hapharard and never prompt, theirs are eating up ribbons, and she had to go in quest of ribbons so they'd continue to get wire copy!

She did her internship with PBS, All Things Considered, and plans to tape something to offer them.

There is just too much to do to do anything as well as it should be done. Too much, some tension-laden, coincided with thinking of this and figuring out what to do.

Lesar and I both felt it wisest, without even discussing it, to say as little as possible over the phone. He asked me no single question about the content.

We never know who - if anyone - is listening in or if so is cued in or how. There is always the question do other minds and interests lead to the same interpretations of meaning. So, in the absence of need I didn't offer and Jim didn't ask.

Of the unseen possible interests, one exactly coincides with the doctrine of O'Toole's book, which is getting quite extensive attention. (Received your 3/19 mailing but no time yet to read yesterdaY8s mail. Lil made bills for the orders in it and I've made the packages.) I've read all the press stuff of which I received copies so I know the Penthouse approach, I've read the condensation in the magazine and begun the book. With catching a couple of his appearances it is obvious to me that a direct CIA connection is immaterial. It serves their immediate interest. I could easily argue - and do believe - that they leaked the submarine story while appearing to be aghast at the very thought. There is no mention of CIA in this transcript but much on FBI.

(Steve was funny in mimicing Kinninger's accent every time Kissinger calls him in to remonstrate about something Steve has written.)

I've not yet made up my mind about phoning McKinley. Lesar had no advice. If I do it will be today.

With proper attention and reaction there is enough in this alone to break the whole thing open. Odds against but far from impossible in today's climate. Steve says nobody asks questions any more, just accepts each new scandal. He says he was consulted about accepting the new Eoddstein book and recommended against it. It is loaded with anti-Nixon stories of a personal nature, or drinking orgies, etc. We had some of the kind of discussion this would lead to and I encapsulated what I have in the WG book.

He had had one of his staff phone me when they got the first Penthouse release. He kept everything for me and had his staffer tape the press conference for me. He sent me everything.

Before he got here yesterday I did enough work to tire me, woodcutting and hauling.

After he left I skimmed the mail and got to packaging. I'd not had time to do Friday's. Both days came to 32, of which only 2 were for WWIV. (I did take in my Black Journal appearance as aired in DC last night without mention of the name of the publisher, atypical but the station said it would endanger its license to do it! Ex Post used reruns of trashy shows for competing "highlights." They edited out all on WWIV. No censorship in editing.) At the rate sales have been I'll have to wonder about trying to finance some reprinting or letting so go out of print. This packaging takes a big hunk out of each day. However, the interest reflecting is impressive and I think quite significant. Today I'll have to clean up on the down wood because this may be the last need of the season, except for getting some ready for next year, to use with green wood then. This kind of survival thinking has become predominating. But the combination interferes seriously with productivity where I'd prefer producing. In haste,